

HETERELIS COSTA, 1887 (INSECTA, HYMENOPTERA):
PROPOSED PROCEDURE FOR CONCLUDING THE CASE
Z.N.(S.)1175

By the Secretary, International Commission on
Zoological Nomenclature

An application by the late Professor J. Chester Bradley for the fixation of the type species of *Heterelis* Costa, 1887, was first received on 12 November 1956. Later, that application was withdrawn and a revised application by J.G. Betrem, J. Chester Bradley and C. Jacot-Guillaume was received on 1 June 1962. This was sent to the printer on 27 July 1962 and published on 26 April 1963 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 20, pp. 204-205.

2. The essence of the case is an error of citation by Costa when he established *Heterelis*. He cited only one species, as '*E. villosa* Fab. *Scolia villosa* Fab. Ent. syst. II, p. 227'. However, Fabricius had there written not '*Scolia villosa*', but '*T. villosa*', i.e. a *Tiphia*. It is clear that Costa intended *Sphex villosa* Fabricius, for long incorrectly treated as the valid name of *Scolia quinquecincta* Fabricius. This is the specific name now long used for a common south European scoliid wasp; Costa cited its name in the synonymy of '*Heterelis villosa*' and there can be no doubt that that was the species before him.

3. The case should, therefore, have been treated as one of a misidentified type species under Article 70a (i) and the use of the plenary powers should have been requested to designate *Scolia quinquecincta* Fabricius, 1793, as type species. Unfortunately that was not done. In consequence, the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was never advertised.

4. When the Commission came to vote on the case, in Voting Paper (1964) 27, it gave 20 affirmative votes and three negative votes. Three late affirmative votes were received. The majority was thus more than sufficient to use the plenary powers, if only their use had been requested and the necessary public notice given.

5. No comment was received before the vote took place, but the following comments were returned by members of the Commission with their voting papers:

Mayr: 'The application is faulty. *Heterelis* has no junior synonym that has been in use for 50 years or more and therefore does not qualify under Art. 23b. The only decision the Commission needs to take is to fix the correct type species, e.g. *villosa* of Costa (*non* Fab.) = *quinquecincta*.'

Simpson (voting against): 'On evidence submitted, I believe that stability would be better served by rejecting this unused name than by its resurrection in a sense that cannot be given it under the letter of the Code and may be rejected by sticklers for strict priority.'

Sabrosky: 'This is clearly a simple case of a misidentified type species, to be decided by the use of the plenary powers. See Article 70a.'

6. As the case now stands, the strong majority vote of the Commission in favour of stabilising *Heterelis* with *Scolia quinquecincta* Fabricius, 1793, as its type species, cannot be published as an Opinion because the proper procedures for advertising the possible use of the plenary powers were not followed.

I accordingly now ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type species hitherto made for the nominal genus *Heterelis* Costa, 1887, and, having done so, to designate *Scolia quinquecincta* Fabricius, 1793, as type species of that genus;
- (2) to place the generic name *Heterelis* Costa, 1887 (gender: feminine), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Scolia quinquecincta* Fabricius, 1793, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *quinquecincta* Fabricius, 1793, as published in the binomen *Scolia quinquecincta* (specific name of type species of *Heterelis* Costa, 1887) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

7. The possible use of the plenary powers in this case will be advertised. If no objection to the above proposals is received within the prescribed six-months period, I propose to publish the Commission's ruling without taking a fresh vote on the case.